CR No. 551/02 is pending at Dandeli Court (Joida Police Station FIR No. 0717274 dated 16/02/2002).

Uniform licensing regime for mobile services

960. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced a uniform licensing regime for the mobile telephone services;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of the service providers thereto; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government has introduced a Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licensing Regime. In this regime, the Licensee is permitted to provide Basic as well as Cellular Mobile Telephone Services in the licensed service area. All the seven Basic Service Operators have already migrated to Unified Access Services Licence in their respective service areas except for four service areas. Till date, fresh applications for grant of Unified Access Services Licences have been received from three operators for 19 licenses and Letters of Intent have been so far issued for 12 licenses.

(c) The following benefits are expected to accrue:—

(i) Better facilities due to the convergence and rapid advancement of technology;

(ii) Lower tariff due to enhanced competition;

(iii) Both type of services, fixed as well as mobile, can be availed from a single service provider; and

(iv) Rapid expansion of telecome services in the country.